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ENSIGN

This just to say your parcel
of French Romantics came in the mail today—
late cellos and violins, the end of an epoch.
Fact: the mind is outstripped by wood and catgut.
Fauré with a frayed moustache on the Rue de Madrid,
going deaf, scribbling desperate quartets.
Magnard, burned alive by the Germans in Oise.
We have so little time left. We should love.

—Sarah Holland-Batt